

THE LITERARY CHRONICLE

And Weekly Review;

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Review of New Books.

PRISON DISCIPLINE.

The Third Report of the Committee of the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, and for the Reformation of Juvenile Offenders. With an Appendix. 8vo. pp. 212. London, 1821.

AMONG the numerous societies which this country may justly boast, formed 'to inquire the wretched out, and court the offices of soft humanity,' there is not one calculated to render such great and important services to society, as that which has been formed for the improvement of prison discipline. For although the philanthropic Howard long ago laid open the secrets of the prison-house, and exhibited many affecting scenes of human misery, yet his researches were chiefly directed to the removal of such diseases as were incidental to prisons, and the alleviation of bodily suffering. The moral evils of imprisonment, its unavoidable tendency to corrupt, as well as the means by which it might be rendered instrumental to reclaim, were subjects which had not become the topic of direct investigation, and in which public feeling had been very little interested. It was reserved for the present day, and for the present society, whose Report is now before us, to investigate the actual tendency of punishments, the true ends to which they ought alone to be directed, and to render prisons places for moral discipline as well as salutary restraint. In this work of beneficence, to the eternal honour of the sex, a female was the first to lead the way.

When Mrs. Fry first visited the prison at Newgate, she found nearly three hundred women sent there for every gradation of crime; some untried, and others under sentence of death, all crowded together; their ferocious manners and expressions towards each other were horrible, and such a den of iniquity was witnessed as might have appalled the stoutest heart, and cooled the zeal of the most ardent enthusiast. One year's unceasing labour of Mrs.

VOL. III.

Fry, however, quite changed the scene. Riot, licentiousness, and filth, were exchanged for order, sobriety, and comparative neatness, in the chamber, the apparel, and the persons of the prisoners. There was no longer to be seen an assemblage of abandoned and shameless creatures, half-naked and half-drunk. The prison no longer resounded with obscenity, imprecations, and licentious songs. To use the strong but just expression of one who knew the prison well, 'this hell upon earth exhibited the appearance of an industrious manufactory or a well regulated family.' The magistrates visiting the prison, soon became sensible of the valuable services Mrs. Fry rendered to the wretched victims of crime and misery, and the Grand Jury of London, in February, 1818, declared, that 'if the principles which govern her regulations were adopted towards the males as well as females, it would be the means of converting a prison into a school of reform; and, instead of sending criminals back into the world, (as is now too generally the case,) hardened in vice and depravity, they would be restored to it repentant, and probably become useful members of society.'

We have deemed it necessary to state these facts, to show what has been done; for the improvement of prison discipline is not a chimerical project or a fanciful theory, but is really practicable. But to return to the Report. The committee have, in the course of their labours, ascertained the highly important fact, that a well-regulated system of prison discipline represses crime; and that the dread of it is such, that few prisoners, after their discharge from a good gaol, return to it, while the number of re-committals to a bad prison is generally considerable. It has been discovered, that since Mrs. Fry began to visit the prison, the number of re-committals have diminished forty per cent. One of the most important features in prison discipline is the employment of the prisoners, which, we are happy to find, has now been introduced into se-

veral gaols, where there was nothing but idleness. Constant labour, the classification of prisoners, the establishment of schools, and a well-regulated system of religious instruction, whenever introduced into a gaol, have never failed in effectuating the most salutary reform. This has been proved not only in the London prisons, but in those in the country, in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. In the last-mentioned country, the Dublin Association, for the improvement of prisons, have been very active, and with great success. The condition of almost every gaol has been ascertained:—

'This investigation has given publicity to many scenes of suffering. Of one gaol, the committee write, "We found some of the prisoners lying on straw. In one cell, seven and a-half feet by seven feet, three men slept every night. In every part the dirt was most disgusting. The want of classification is horrible in its effects. The worst felons are mixed with those guilty, and even accused only of petty misdemeanours. Great numbers must have passed through this gaol within the last few years; each man forced into temporary contact with vice, in its most abandoned form, and then sent home to spread the pollution through his family and neighbourhood."

'Of another prison, they say, "It is scarcely possible to conceive a combination of causes less calculated to correct, and more liable to corrupt both body and mind, than that which this gaol exhibits. Committal to it inflicts an immediate and a heavy punishment, which, through disease, may amount to actual privation of life."

'Adverting to another gaol, it is remarked, "Beyond locking up the prisoners in their sleeping cells, no means of separation are afforded for either males or females, debtors or felons, old or young, tried or untried; and the melancholy effects are daily visible in corrupting the innocent, and hardening the criminal. Instances are by no means rare, of persons committed for venial misdemeanours, when turned out, becoming confirmed offenders."

Now 'let us look on this picture and on that:—

'At Sligo, it is stated, that "the labours of the visiting committee have greatly

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prospered; the conduct of the prisoners has been wonderfully improved, and the greatest decorum now prevails in every part of the building.

During the last year, the number of commitments was less than one-half that of former years, and not one of those who received instruction has been re-committed for any offence. Several depraved females, it is known, have returned to the paths of virtue and industry, in consequence of the humane exertions of ladies visiting this prison.

At Kilmainham, not one of the prisoners who were the subjects of the committee's labours, have been re-committed to it since their discharge; though in every other class of prisoners, where their time is devoted to idleness and guilt, frequent and melancholy instances have occurred of their return into confinement, under fresh and aggravated charges.

There is another object in which this society in England has laboured with equal zeal, if not with equal success—the reformation of juvenile offenders. From the investigations of the committee, they have ascertained, with some degree of certainty, that there are upwards of eight thousand boys in the metropolis, who subsist in a material degree by depredations on the public. A great proportion of these boys are passing constantly through the prisons, thus ripening into the most atrocious offenders; and on their release they are industriously engaged in spreading the knowledge and practice of crime. Some of these have not distress to plead on their behalf, and have friends earnestly desirous to assist them; the greatest portion, however, are nursed in depravity and tutored in crime. At an early age they are turned into the streets, and dare not return to their homes without a certain sum, the fruits of mendicity or theft. The committee, in visiting the several prisons of the metropolis, found many cases of boys who were quite friendless, and who, on their discharge from confinement, literally knew not where to lay their heads. In order to assist such, a temporary refuge has been instituted, which has had the good effect of reclaiming and providing for many youthful victims of crime. The committee attribute much of juvenile delinquency to the number of fairs in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, and recommend their abolition by the legislature.

The example that has been so gloriously set in this country for the improvement of prison discipline, has been followed in many foreign countries, particularly France, Russia, and Swe-

den. In Russia, a prison discipline society was formed by the indefatigable exertions of a valuable member of the committee in England, Mr. Walter Venning. This gentleman sacrificed health, interest, comfort, and society, to encounter vice, misery, disease, and even death. Like Howard, he was devoted to the task of assuaging the miseries and promoting the improvement of his fellow creatures, and, like him, fell a victim to his exertions:—

Assiduously engaged in visiting one of the prisons in St. Petersburg, Mr. Venning contracted a fever, which terminated his existence on the 10th January last.

Soon after the formation of the Society, Mr. Venning joined the committee, and very essentially contributed, by his exertions, to the success of their labours. He was indefatigable in visiting the gaols of the metropolis, and ever earnest in his endeavours to restore the criminal, but especially the youthful offender, to the paths of religion and virtue. During his late residence in Russia, a period of nearly four years, his time has been unceasingly devoted to the amelioration of the gaols in that country. He presented to the Emperor Alexander a memorial, forcibly pointing out the great national advantages that result from the improvement of prison discipline, and the wisdom and practicability of rendering punishment the instrument of reformation. The justice of these views was acknowledged, and, to carry them into effect, an association was formed at St. Petersburg, under the imperial sanction. This association has been productive of extensive good, by introducing improvements in the construction of places of confinement, and regulations calculated to preserve the health, and promote the moral and religious interests of the criminal. It is needless to add, that in these philanthropic labours Mr. Venning eminently shared; and long, very long, will the wretched and the guilty confined in the prisons of the Russian empire, have reason to revere his name and bless his memory.

The Appendix to the Report contains numerous extracts from the correspondence of the committee, which give an interesting account of the principal gaols in the united kingdom. In most of those where labour is introduced, the prisoners are not only reformed, but the expenses of the establishments are essentially relieved. At the general Penitentiary, at Millbank, the earnings of the prisoners are upwards of 4000*l.* annually, and the expenses of the establishment 25,000*l.* The dietary of this establishment is as follows:—

For breakfast, one pint of hot gruel or porridge.

For dinner on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, six ounces of clods, stickings, or other coarse pieces of beef, (without bone, and after boiling,) with half a pint of the broth made therefrom, and one pound of boiled potatoes. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, one quart of broth for the males, and one pint for the females, thickened with Scotch barley, rice, potatoes, or pease, with the addition of cabbages, turnips, and other cheap vegetables.

For supper, one pint of hot gruel or porridge; also every day one-half pound of bread, made of such meal as the committee may direct, for every male prisoner under the age of eighteen years, and one pound for every other prisoner. But the boys under eighteen years may have the full allowance of bread, if the chaplains and governor shall certify that their conduct has been meritorious during the week preceding.

The expense of food alone per week, is stated in evidence before the Lords' Committee on Gaols, to be 4*s.* 9½*d.* each male prisoner, and 6½*d.* less for the females. The expense of food at Devises House of Correction, is 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per week; that at Preston, (both prisons being in full work,) is stated, for the year ending 2d May last, to be 2*s.* 1*d.* If the cost of the Millbank dietary were reduced 1*s.* viz. to 3*s.* 9*d.* per head, for five hundred and fifty prisoners, more than 1400*l.* per annum might be saved. It is much to be desired, for the credit of the Penitentiary system, that this institution should be regulated with as strict regard to economy as is consistent with the objects of the establishment.

From the account of a visit to the prisons in France, made in December, 1820, we make one extract, from which it would appear, that juvenile delinquency is by no means uncommon in France; but we shudder at the idea of consigning a child of seven years old to any prison, and that too for a period of a dozen years. Our extract relates to the prisons in the department of the Upper Rhine:—

Colmar Prison.—This is a wretched place, constructed out of an ancient convent. It contained seventy-seven prisoners, seven of whom were galleréens. The prison was calculated to hold one hundred and fifty, but five hundred have occasionally been put into it. There was no employment and no instruction. The men prisoners, except the galleréens, were all together. Two boys, one about ten years old, who had stolen a child's chair, appeared to be hardened thieves. The galleréens were locked up when they were not walking in the court, which they are allowed for four hours a-day. The women also had this permission. The prison was well ventilated. No clothing is allowed. The sick are sent to a neighbouring hospital. An addition is now making to the buildings of this prison.

Ensisheim Maison Centrale de Detention.—This is a dépôt for prisoners convicted and sentenced to more than a year's confinement, and many are sentenced for life. This depot is for eight departments, Haut Rhin, Bas Rhin, Moselle, Meurthe, Vosges, Haut Soane, Doubs, and Jura. There are now in it six hundred and fifty prisoners, but it is capable of containing a larger number. It is divided into classes for men and women, correctional and criminal; there are also courts for the sick; making in all six courts. The young have also a sort of separation, but it is little more than nominal. There was one boy who had been sentenced for stealing at seven and-a-half years of age, and who is to remain till he is twenty years old. The boys have some instruction given them. The number of women was about two hundred and seventy. The prisoners were all at work picking cotton, by which they get from five to six francs per week; of this, one-sixth goes to the entrepreneur, one-sixth to the governor, one-third to the prisoners weekly, and one-third on his discharge. The entrepreneur is a sort of merchant, who supplies all, and pays for the work at a rate fixed, every quarter, by the society of arts and manufactures at Mulhausen. The prisoners have two hours per day allowed for exercise and meals; the rest of the day they are obliged to work. Their allowance of food is 1½ lbs of bread, $\frac{2}{3}$ wheat, and $\frac{1}{3}$ barley, each day; besides potatoes or peas, and rice, with meat, the first Sunday in the month. This house was built for a *Maison de Mendicité*; it is not calculated for a prison, as it admits of no inspection. Instruction is very incomplete, and there seemed a considerable want of discipline.

In the Report on the State of Prisons in Switzerland, we find that the untried prisoners are by far the most hardly dealt with:—

‘Not only are they in general very long in being brought to trial, but their places of confinement are most cruel. One or two cases will serve to illustrate this. A man was found shut up in a tower situated in the middle of a river. He was its only human inhabitant. His gaoler came three times a-day in a boat to examine his chain and bring him food, and his judges from time to time, as they proceeded in his examination. He was chained to his bed, from which he could not move far, and had no chair or table, nor fire, instruction, or comfort, but a few old books. He could indeed see the sky, but that only. He had been in this situation for twelve months, and even then it was not determined whether he was guilty or not. In the same tower was a room about sixteen feet square, without light altogether, or air, except what passed through a narrow funnel. In this place they told me that a man had been on one occasion confined eleven months. In another prison, a large apartment in the tow-

er of an ancient convent, a man was found who had been taken up on suspicion, and had been confined forty-eight days. The window was unglazed, but not large enough to admit light. The room was very cold. The straw on which the prisoner lay was almost black with use, and his clothes had not been changed since his confinement. He was, he said, covered with vermin. These are, it is to be hoped, singular cases, yet it is the general treatment of untried prisoners in this country.’

The prisons in Italy are generally ill constructed and badly regulated; but this country can boast of a female who, following the example of our distinguished countrywoman, ‘seeks the wretched out.’ After describing the state of the prison at Turin, where, out of twenty-four women, eight were sick, we are told, that,—

‘Although these poor women were in so wretched a state, their situation was better in other respects, for they were all decently clothed, and employed in different works. I afterwards learned that they were indebted for this to the kindness and generosity of a lady, equally distinguished by her rank and piety, who had been excited to this work by the accounts she had heard of Newgate, and who, not finding other help, herself did the whole work of a committee, relieving their necessities, giving them work, reading to them and instructing them in their duties, and preventing, in some measure, the evil which must have resulted both in this world and another, from their confinement in this miserable place.

Prison at Villa Franca.

‘This prison is for the reception of the Galley-slaves, as they are called. It is situated near the port, where a considerable number of the slaves are conducted to work, during the day. Others, convicted of lesser offences, are allowed to walk out, chained two together, accompanied by a guard. These wear the prison dress, upon which the word “Galéréen” is marked on their back. Parties of them were almost daily to be seen in the streets of Nice, offering for sale various useful articles and trinkets of their own manufacture in prison; they appeared to behave with great submission; and, as long as they conduct themselves quietly, they are not interfered with by their guard, who closely follows them, and stops with them, whenever they like to offer their goods. Others, who are committed for life, were not suffered to partake of this indulgence.’

In a letter from Mr. Venning, (whose death we have already noticed,) giving an account of the prisons of Russia, we have the following interesting details:—

‘In consulting the annals of Russia, which you will perceive has been done by the interesting details contained in the

pamphlets of the proceedings of our committee, you will find that works of love and mercy always did, and do still, constitute a distinct characteristic of this nation.

‘As these pamphlets are in the Russian language, the following extract from one of them, perhaps, may not be uninteresting:—

“Makarius, who, in former times, was metropolitan of all Russia, at the marriage of the Czar Ivan Vassilovitch with the Czarina Anastasia, in his speech to him, said, among other things, ‘act towards the needy with mercy; protect the widows, the orphans, and the injured; and visit those who are confined in prison.’ In those times, Boyarin Sheremetoff was also well known by his works of mercy. He gave away his fortune. When asked by the emperor, ‘where have you spent your property?’ he answered, ‘I spent it with the poor of this world.’ The Czar Mechila Federovitch regularly furnished all the needy exiles to Siberia with money from his own private funds, to assist them on their long journey. The Czar Alexey Mechalovitch (father of Peter the Great) visited the prisons once every year in plain attire, pardoned trivial offenders, and sent all the prisoners bread from his own table. His two wives followed the example of the philanthropic emperor. The first, Czarina Maria Ilenechna, appropriated great sums to the liberation of prisoners; and Czarina Natalia Kirilovna satisfied all the wants of the prisons and the hospitals by her presents, visited them during the night, and with her own hands distributed clothes to the indigent.”

‘And it is added, and I believe with justice too, that in general with difficulty will the man be found in this empire who would not by some means, however inconsiderable, testify his commiseration for the unfortunate in prison.

‘I have again the painful task of announcing to you that the Ladies’ Committee have sustained a very severe loss in the decease of their president, her Excellency Mrs. Kazadavleff. I shall not soon forget her kindness to the prisoners, or the friendship with which she honoured me. One of the last instances of her kindness which I witnessed was towards a poor female prisoner, a native of Little Russia, who, after having received part of her punishment, was to be exiled to Siberia for life, but she was too weak to go far; the guard had not conducted her out of the city, before she fell down in the street through extreme weakness, and they were obliged to bring her back to the prison, where we found her in a most miserable condition: her deplorable state immediately attracted the attention of Mrs. Kazadavleff, who made herself acquainted with all her wants, and instantly supplied some of them: but her kindness did not stop here: she succeeded in her application that she might not be sent off till she was perfectly recovered. A comfortable bed was provided for her in the

hospital of the town prison, to which she was removed, and where, by attention and care, her life was for some time prolonged; and, although she did not recover, she had the consolation of knowing that she had in her last illness a true, a disinterested and sympathizing friend, in this lady. Her Excellency Mrs. Tolstoy, daughter of Field Marshal Koutusoff, has been appointed president of the Ladies' Committee. A temporary building has been granted to the Ladies' Committee, until the new prison be erected for the female prisoners, almost adjoining the town prison. The plans are nearly ready. Separate dormitories are to be made for debtors as well as for criminals. There are some doubts entertained how the sleeping cells are to be sufficiently heated by warm air, and I will thank you to give me information on this subject, as the plans now drawing, are principally under my direction.

The Prince Galitzin, in his address at the Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the St. Petersburg Prison Society, in January, 1820, pays an elegant tribute to the memory of Mr. Venning, whom he calls a second Howard. He says,—

'Since the year 1817, Mr. Venning had resided in Russia, and though little, or rather altogether unknown at first, it may be said that he himself then performed the work of a whole society. With the highest permission granted to him, he examined the state of the prisons, houses of correction, and poor houses in St. Petersburg, Iwer, and Moscow. Many reforms and improvements were made according to his suggestions, and a particular attention was thereby excited towards this department.

'His indefatigable exertions to promote the establishment of a *Tutel* Society for the prisons here, were at last crowned with the desired success. On the 19th of July, 1819, his Imperial Majesty was pleased to give his sanction to such a society; and the act declaring its formation testifies, that Mr. Venning was the first person who suggested the idea among us, of such a beneficent institution. His joy and delight at this event, so much desired for by him, seemed to make a deep impression on his mind, and from that period, a kind of sacred bond seemed to unite him to Russia. Last year, he was a co-operator in the establishment of a Prison Committee at Cronstadt, and though his active love for suffering humanity excited him subsequently to resolve on visiting England and other places, where he expected to exert himself in a new sphere of usefulness, yet he always proposed in his mind to return to Russia. At last, he took his departure for Denmark, with a view to form a Prison Society there; but it is well known, that by the ship being wrecked in a storm, his voyage was prevented, and it was only by a special act of a gracious Providence that he was saved

from the most imminent danger, and brought back again to St. Petersburg. After this, notwithstanding the shock which his health had received, he ceased not, during the autumn, to look out for a fit opportunity to depart, but adverse winds obliged him to remain here.

'Thus, the Almighty disposer of events ordained that he should lay down the frail tabernacle of his body here, in order to be clothed with an "eternal one not made with hands;" that he should here finish his earthly career, in order to commence another in our Father's kingdom which is on high.

'Out of love and sincere esteem for the memory of our deceased colleague, I have a proposal to make, to which you will doubtless all accede, that you allow me to communicate the decease of Mr. Venning to his Imperial Majesty, and to ask the gracious permission of his majesty to erect on the spot, where the mortal remains of this friend of mankind rest, a humble, yet becoming monument, in testimony of the meek Christian qualities and labours of the deceased; and of the esteem of the members of the St. Petersburg Committee of the Tutel Society for prisons, for his memory, towards the establishment of which society he was the most active instrument. Not splendour, nor vain show, nor empty eulogy, ought to constitute the symbols and ornaments of this monument, but a simplicity which shall speak to the heart, and excite to pious reflection. While Russia has to shew near one frontier the ashes of his countryman, who marked the first traces of amelioration in the condition of prisoners, and of the sick and the suffering, let her also show another monument of a second Howard.'

To the friends of humanity, the Third Report of the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline must be highly gratifying, as it not only shews that a great deal of good has been done, but points out an ample field for future exertions.

LIVES OF EMINENT SCOTSMEN.

Parts II. and III.

WHEN we noticed the first part of this elegant little work, we spoke very decisively as to what we deemed its merits—the originality of the memoirs, the elegance with which many of them were written, and the spirit of impartiality and free inquiry which distinguished the whole: these, it will be allowed, are strong recommendations to any work, particularly to a biographical one; but strong as they are, the two subsequent parts do not render it necessary that we should qualify them. One thing we certainly must regret, the want of regularity in the publication. The first part, we believe, appeared on the first of May, to be suc-

ceeded by one monthly. Six parts are now due, but three only have appeared; a fourth is, however, promised for the first of next month. Whether this delay is of a temporary or a permanent nature, we know not, but however injurious we think the want of punctuality may be to a periodical (and we think it highly so), yet even this is much better than that the work should suffer by haste; and it is, perhaps, due to the editor and publisher of the '*Lives of Eminent Scotsmen*,' to attribute the delay to their anxiety to do the work ample justice.

The second and third parts, now before us, contain twenty-two memoirs, including the lives of James the Fifth and Sixth, Henry the Minstrel, Sir David Lindsay, the Earl of Stirling, Alexander Barclay, Dr. Armstrong, Thomson, Macpherson, &c. The life of one of the most amiable of the Stuarts, James the Fifth, is well written; and justice is done to the memory of this '*King of the Poor*,' in the following estimate of his character:—

'The mere narrative of such a life as James's, makes any summary of his character unnecessary: there are no incongruities to reconcile, no great faults to be put in proper balance; it is throughout vigorous, splendid, and consistent. It still remains, however, to fill up the sketch, which a feeble hand has attempted to present, of the leading events of his history, with some traits, which, though not less interesting, rest, as it were, in shadow. It has been seen how inflexible James was in the administration of justice, but it has yet to be told, that he was the first of the Scottish monarchs who took care to make known to the people what their rights were. In 1540, he ordered the whole Acts of Parliament of his reign to be printed in the vulgar tongue; a measure quite as hostile to the arbitrary claims of the feudal barons, as the more recent translation of the Scriptures into the same tongue was to the exclusive pretensions of the Romish clergy. It cannot be said that James gave encouragement to the latter; but he set an example which essentially prepared the way for it. Although not possessed of any of that religious fervour which began to distinguish the age in which he lived, and apparently little sensible of the importance of religious liberty to the spread of knowledge, James was ardently desirous for the information of his subjects in all other respects. Of the elegant and useful arts, and of all branches of what was called profane learning, he was a liberal patron and active promoter. "He furnished the country," says Pitscottie, a writer not the most charitable to his memory, "with all kyndes of craftsmen, sik as Frenchmen, Spainyardis, and Dutchmen, quhilk

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ever was the finest of their profession that could be had; quhilk brought the countrie to great policie." Lindsay, Buchanan, Bellenden, Maitland, Montgomery, Henryson, and many others of inferior fame, were among the men of letters who contributed to shed a lustre on his reign, and who, in an age when there was no reading public, could live on the patronage of the court alone. Bellenden he employed to translate, into the Scottish tongue, the History of Scotland, by Hector Boëthius, an author to whom Dr. Johnson has done the justice of saying, that he "may be justly revered as one of the revivers of elegant learning;" and, subsequently, he gave the same author a commission to execute a translation of Livy, the first of Roman historians*. In a poetical prologue which Bellenden has prefixed to the latter version, he pays a just tribute of praise to James for his encouragement of our native literature, and farther speaks of him, as being himself distinguished for his literary productions.

If the editor of this work did not, in almost every line of his work, prove that he was a true Scot, we should have suspected him to be of the sister kingdom, on account of a *bull*, which occurs in a note to this memoir. He tells us that James kept his court at his castle of Cauthally, since called *Cowdaily*, a name given to it in consequence of the last lord having, every day at his table, a *bullock* dressed entire.

It is generally known that Alexander Barclay, the translator of the 'Ship of Fools,' has been claimed by both England and Scotland; the question appears to be set at rest by the editor of this work, who adduces pretty decisive evidence that he was a Scotsman.

In the life of Thomson, which is one of the neatest in these volumes, the editor corrects an error into which Johnson has fallen in his 'Lives of the Poets,' when he states that Thomson's 'first want was a pair of shoes,' and that, 'for the support of all his necessities, his whole fund was his "Winter."' It appears, from a letter written by Thomson at the time, and which the editor has discovered and printed, that Thomson, though not rich, was unembarrassed, and far from wanting a pair of shoes. The literary part of this letter (which is addressed to Dr. Cranstoun) establishes a fact of some interest to the curious in poetical history, the source from which he derived the idea of his admirable poem of 'Winter.' The editor ridicules the idea of Murdoch and others, that the distin-

* Only five books of this translation were completed, and they still remain in MS.

guishing qualities of Thomson's mind and heart are best discovered from his works; that those who inferred from his poems that he was a 'great lover, a great swimmer, and rigorously abstinent,' might, from the same source, have proved that he was an early riser, since he reprobated the bed of sloth most eloquently. The last memoir in the second part is that of John Oswald, who, under the name of Silvester Otway, contributed several poetical effusions to the London newspapers in 1788 or 1789. Oswald had been an officer in the army, and is better known as a politician than a poet. At the commencement of the French revolution, he warmly espoused its principles, and went to Paris, where he became a very active member of the Jacobin Club:—

'The influence which Mr. Oswald had acquired in the Jacobin Club, gave him a corresponding influence with the government of the day, over which that club, as every body knows, exercised for some time a most pernicious control. The first of Anglo-Jacobins was not to be requited by any inferior appointment; they at once nominated him to the command of a regiment of infantry. The corps is said, however, not to have been of the best description, being composed of the refuse of Paris and the departments.

'Mr. Oswald had, previously to this appointment, been joined by his two sons; but true to the principle of equality, which he professed, he only made them drummers in the regiment of which he was colonel.

'The bad character of the men whom Colonel Oswald commanded, obliged him to have recourse to a system of severity in disciplining them, which, while it made them good soldiers, there is every reason to believe made him in every one a personal enemy. In the outset of his command he committed a sort of national blunder, which added nothing to his popularity. Knowing what feats his own countrymen had performed at the point of the bayonet; convinced from experience and observation that there was in a charge of cold steel something more appalling than in a hundred volleys of musketry—he conceived the notion that a regiment trained to depend entirely on the charge would be one of powerful efficiency, and certain to acquire great distinction. He proposed, therefore, to lay aside the musket in his regiment, and to substitute a pike of superior construction. The directory approved his suggestion, and the experiment was made. The men, however, could not be persuaded to view the innovation in the same light as their English colonel. They were Frenchmen, and decided upon it with French feeling. For light warfare—the brisk fire—quick retreat—and as quick return—the French

soldiery have no superiors; but in that cool intrepidity which can make and sustain a charge, they have never been able to compete with the soldiers of many other countries—the Scots, the Muscovites, the Swedes, and even the Hollanders. Colonel Oswald saw, when too late to repair a bad impression, that he had mistaken the national character; he was obliged to throw away his pikes, because his men absolutely refused to be trained to the use of them.

'When the war in La Vendée broke out, Colonel Oswald's corps was one of those selected to proceed against the rebels, a distinction which it no doubt owed to having a foreign commander, who might be supposed to have fewer scruples than a native in acting against natives. In the first encounter, however, which they had with the Vendéans, Oswald's men are generally understood to have taken advantage of the confusion of the fight to rid themselves of this advantage; they are said to have not only dispatched the father, but his two sons, youths of a most interesting character, and another English gentleman, whom Oswald had selected as worthy to share his fortunes. It is, at all events, certain that the four Englishmen fell in the fight; and whether in consequence of their own forward bravery or of the treachery of their French comrades, will probably ever remain a mystery.

'Mr. Oswald was about the common stature, but of a very commanding appearance. I have heard that, when in Paris, he affected the Roman costume; wore his collar open, and his hair *à la brutus*.

In the memoir of James the Sixth, the author takes a full and comprehensive view of the life, conduct, and policy of that weak but tyrannical monarch. The events of his reign are too well known to admit much in the way of novelty, but some of the most prominent are reprehended with just severity. The writer, after noticing the persecuting spirit of this king, in sending men to the stake for what he deemed heresy, justly observes, that—

'The history of James's life in England was stained by but too many similar acts of arbitrary cruelty. The whole of his internal government consisted, indeed, of little else than acts of aggression on the rights and liberties of his people, frequently aggravated by peculiar features of wantonness and rigour. The murder of Sir Walter Raleigh, the glory of his age and nation, to please the court of Spain; the pardon of his Majesty's favourite, the Duke of Somerset, and his lady, for poisoning Sir Thomas Overbury, after having invoked, on his knees, the vengeance of heaven on himself and his posterity, if he did not yield them up to justice; the imprisonment of the Earl of Northumberland for fourteen years, in addition to an

exaction of thirty thousand pounds, on a mere suspicion, unsupported by the least proof, of his being privy to the gunpowder-plot; the committal to the Tower of several members of the House of Commons, and the banishment of others for presuming to assert that the people of England possessed any right which did not flow entirely from the grace and favour of their sovereigns: such were a few of those acts which gave a character of oppression and profligacy to the domestic administration of James, seldom before exceeded in the history of England.

'Nor did James confine himself to conduct, the evil of which might perish with him. In the sufficiency of his self-conceit, he must needs become a legislator, and confer on England a law, which was to do the work of ignorance and inhumanity long after he should be no more. It is painful to be obliged to speak thus severely of a prince of our native line; but, can less be said of that law which first made witchcraft a crime in England, and has been the cause of consigning hundreds and thousands to an ignominious death, for an impossible offence? James had before leaving Scotland, written and published a "Treatise on Demonologie," in which he had endeavoured, with great show of learning, to "resolve the doubting hearts of many," as to the "fearful abounding of those detestable slaves of the devil, witches or enchanters," and established, to his own satisfaction, that "witches ought to be put to death according to the law of God, the civil and imperial law, and the municipal law of all christian nations." He now resolved to let his English subjects have the benefit of this sensible discovery; and found the Parliament foolish enough to concur with him in passing that law, on which so many capital convictions have taken place for witchcraft, and which remained, for upwards of a century, a disgrace to the statute-book, and to the national character.

'A tyrant at home, James was a truckler abroad; and though England enjoyed an unwonted length of peace during his reign, it was a blessing gained by a sacrifice of character and advantages, for which it ill compensated. He had scarcely seized the sceptre, when he gave peace to Spain without being asked for it; and thus lost, as Cornwallis, the ambassador whom he sent to Madrid, says in a letter to Cecil, "such an opportunity of winning honour and wealth," as England never before possessed. He afterwards allowed the Spaniards, whom he had thus foolishly favoured, to ill-treat, defraud, and even massacre* British subjects with impunity. He beheld his son-in-law, the Elector Palatine, and in him the protestant cause,

* 'Sir Walter Raleigh speaks of it as a known fact, that "the Spaniards murdered twenty-six Englishmen, tying them back to back, and then cutting their throats, when they had traded with them a whole month, and came to them on the land without so much as one sword."

about to be overwhelmed by a coalition of enemies; and to save both, sent over—an aid of one regiment of foot! He saw the Palatinate lost through his pusillanimity, and then weakly imagined that he could reason princes, flushed with victory, out of their conquest. He allowed his unfortunate daughter, her husband, and her children, to drag out a long exile in a foreign land, without affording them any of those helps which duty and humanity required at his hands. He suffered the British flag, which had never before known dishonour, to be grossly insulted, and our merchant-ships to be pillaged by the Dutch; contenting himself with sending a remonstrance, which the Dutch, viewing it as it deserved, passed over unheeded. Nay, as if there had been no fitter way for an independent prince to resent injuries, than to heap favours on his enemies; notwithstanding all the Dutch had done, he consented to deliver up to them the cautionary towns which they had deposited in the hands of Queen Elizabeth, on their paying five millions less than the sum for which they stood pledged; and thus relieved them besides from that state of dependence on Britain, which had been hitherto regarded as the right arm of our continental policy. The massacre at Amboyna was now all that was wanted to place beyond doubt, whether it was possible to rouse a spark of the man or sovereign in him. He submitted to this unexampled injury, even without requiring satisfaction, and contented himself with whiningly telling the Dutch ambassador, "that he had never heard nor read a more cruel and impious act than that of Amboyna. But," continued he, "I do forgive them, and I hope God will; but my son's son* shall revenge this blood, and punish this horrid massacre."

'Need we be surprised that such a course of conduct should have made James an object of ridicule among foreign nations, and of contempt with his own? All over the continent, caricatures of him were to be seen, exhibiting him in the most ludicrous situations. In one place, he was represented with a scabbard without a sword; in another, with a sword stuck so fast in the scabbard, that nobody could draw it; and in a third, carrying a cradle after his poor daughter, the Electress Palatine, who, with dishevelled hair and tattered garments, was trudging along with a child on her back. The French had their epigram, too, on the occasion, the point of which is, with some loss of elegance, preserved in the following old version:—

'While Elizabeth was England's king,
That dreadful name through Spain did ring;
How alter'd is the case—ad sa' me!
These jugling days of gude Queen Jamie.'

* 'James proved a false prophet. It was left to Cromwell to obtain satisfaction for this, as well as other wrongs, which Britain had endured during the reigns of his legitimate predecessors.

There are several memoirs in this part on which we would dwell, but our limits preclude it. In the life of Macpherson, the author expresses himself decidedly that 'he was all but the sole author of the poems which he ascribed to Ossian.' It is one of the features of this work to rescue from oblivion the names of several men of genius who had been 'born to blush unseen.' Among those must be ranked the unfortunate Charles Salmon, a journeyman printer of Edinburgh. He was zealous in the cause of the Pretender, and was the author of some jacobite songs, and 'An Elegy written in the Abbey Church, Edinburgh.' Salmon was a dissipated young man:—

'At the suggestion of some of the more prudent of his gay companions, Salmon issued proposals for publishing a collection of his poetical effusions, under the modest title of "Poems by a Printer." From the misfortunes which afterwards befel him, this collection never saw the light; but there is reason to believe that he had accumulated a sufficient number of poems to have formed a very respectable volume. Several of them had appeared in Ruddiman's Magazine and in the Dumfries Weekly Magazine, established by Mr. Jackson, on a similar plan, and may, perhaps, still be traced. The friend to whom the writer of this memoir is indebted for such information as it contains of Salmon, remembers to have heard him recite two imitations, or rather parodies, of the Deserted Village and Splendid Shilling, as parts of his intended publication. The subject of the former was "Auld Reikie," and of the latter, "The Threadbare Coat." There were also a variety of occasional pieces, addressed to the friends with whom he associated, including some names which would have vouched for the regard in which, though poor and humble, Charlie Salmon was held by individuals of the first respectability.

'Whatever prospects of poetical renown Salmon may have formed, one night of fatal dissipation came and destroyed them all. In a fit of intoxication, he fell into the company of a recruiting serjeant, and the same friend who had last seen him with a white cockade in a paper cap, working a press to the song of "The Crown is Charlie's right, is it no? is it no?" saw him next morning enlisted under the black cockade, or, as Salmon was wont with other jacobites to call it, the curse of God. Poor Salmon! When asked by one of his friends how he could have been so misled, he answered, with a smile at his own simplicity, "I listed for a lieutenant."

'The regiment in which he had enlisted was the Seaforth Highlanders, and without waiting to excite what he dreaded more than the bitterest reproach, the

commiseration of pretended friends, he hastened to join it. In the memorable mutiny which some time afterwards broke out in this regiment at Edinburgh, when they seized possession of Arthur's Seat, and set the power of government at defiance, Salmon is said to have been called upon, in consequence of his knowledge of English, and superior address, to take the management for his comrades of the negotiation which ensued for their return to duty. The regiment was ultimately embarked for India, and Salmon was heard of no more.

'Of the merits of a writer of whose works we know so little, it would be rash to form any conclusive judgment. The pieces which have happened to survive the general fate of his productions, may, perhaps, be those which were least entitled to have any influence on the decision. He appears to have been rather a writer who promised much, than who had realized much.'

These two parts are, like their predecessor, each embellished with a group of fine portraits, elegantly engraved.

An Account of the Interior of Ceylon and of its Inhabitants. By John Davy, M. D., F. R. S.

(Concluded from p. 627.)

THE Singalese have, from time immemorial, indulged in that preference so natural and common to an agricultural people, of living either in very small villages, consisting of a few houses, or detached habitations, separated from each other only by the extent of land occupied by each individual. Their dwellings are generally in low and sheltered situations. The economy of a Singalese family is very simple; they have about them, and in their neighbourhood, almost every thing they require, and the occupations of the different members of the family are well defined. The more laborious operations of agriculture, as ploughing, embanking, &c. fall to the lot of the men; and the lighter, as weeding and assisting in reaping, to the women. The care of the house and the management of the household affairs belong almost exclusively to the latter, and constitute their peculiar duties. The Singalese rise at dawn of day, and retire to rest about nine or ten o'clock at night. They sleep on mats, either on the floor or on couches, with a fire generally in the room. Their principal meal is at noon, and consists of rice and curry, which is generally composed of red pepper, salt, lime-juice, and the dried skin of the gorka. Their meals are short and unsocial; the master of the house, the father of the

family, is first served; at his solitary repast, he is waited on by his wife, who helps him and supplies him with what he wants. The turn of the mistress of the house is next, and of the younger children who cannot help themselves without a mother's care; the rest of the family eat last, and their portion is what remains. Among poor people, these distinctions are little attended to, and the family all eat together. Though not a convivial, the Singalese are a social people, great gossips, and when not seriously occupied, visiting and conversation are their principal amusements. On such occasions, the men and women form their respective circles, and are never seen mixed in society. Old bachelors and old maids are rarely to be seen among the Singalese; almost every man marries, and marries young, and the preliminaries of the union are settled by the parents:—

'When a young man has reached the age of eighteen or twenty, he is considered marriageable, and it is the duty of his father to provide him with a proper wife. The father having selected a family of his own caste and rank, pays the master of it a visit, and if the information he receive respecting the lady's dower be satisfactory, he formally proposes his son. Soon after the father of the lady returns the visit, to learn the circumstances of the young man, the establishment he is to have, and his prospects in life. If both parties are so far satisfied, the father of the young man makes another visit to his friend, to see the lady, and inquire respecting her qualifications, age, and disposition. He is contented if she is younger than his son, in good health, free from ulcers and corporal blemishes, possessed of a pretty good disposition, and acquainted with the ordinary duties of a housewife. On his return home, he desires his son to go clandestinely and see her; if the young man enter the house, it is under a feigned name; and if he see his intended he must not address her. The day of the marriage being fixed, and the hour determined by an astrologer, the bridegroom and his family, their relations and friends, proceed to the house of the bride, accompanied by people carrying provisions, and by four men in particular, bearing a large pingo, laden not only with all sorts of provisions, but likewise with a piece of white cloth, and with jewels and ornaments, varying in number and richness, according to the means of the individual. The party set out in time to arrive towards evening; they find a mandoo (a temporary building) prepared for their reception, a feast in readiness, and the friends of the lady assembled to meet them. In the middle of the mandoo, which is covered with mats, the men of both parties seat themselves round a large

pile of rice, placed on fresh plantain leaves, and garnished with curries of different kinds; the ladies do the same, collected within the house. Both parties help themselves with their hands, and eat from the common pile. This mode of eating, peculiar to the marriage feast, is esteemed proof of good fellowship, and should any one hesitate to partake, he would be considered an enemy, and be driven away. After the repast, the bridegroom enters the house, meets the bride attended by her friends; they exchange balls, made of rice and cocoa-nut milk; and he presents her with the piece of white cloth and with the jewels and ornaments he has brought. All this having been transacted in silence, he retires, and he returns to the mandoo. The night is passed by the company in telling stories and in conversation; the next morning, the bride, led by the bridegroom, and accompanied by all their friends, is conducted to his father's house, where the ceremony is concluded with another feast, similar to the preceding. The woman's dower generally consists of household goods and cattle, but rarely of land.'

Though polygamy and concubinage are contrary to the religion of the Singalese, yet they indulge in both, particularly the former, and it is remarkable that in the Kandyan territory, as in Tibet, a plurality of husbands is much more common than of wives. One woman has frequently two husbands, and Dr. Davy says he has heard of one case, where a woman had as many as seven.

We pass over the history of Ceylon, as one of the least interesting chapters of the volume, and proceed to Dr. Davy's travels in the island, from which we shall make a few extracts, and first of Adam's Peak, which is an immense mountain, of a conical form, rising rapidly and majestically to a point:—

'Near the summit, the ascent is so precipitous, that were it not for iron chains fixed to the rocks, small indeed would be the number of those who would complete their pilgrimage; even with the help of these chains, accidents occasionally occur, and lives are lost; only a fortnight before (we were told) two natives perished here; looking down, they became giddy and frightened, fell, and were dashed to pieces.

'We arrived at the top of the mountain a little after three o'clock. The magnificent views of the surrounding scenery amply repaid us for a laborious march, and all the little difficulties we had to contend with.

'From the surrounding scenery our curiosity soon led us to examine the summit of the mountain, and the object which induces thousands annually to undertake

this weary pilgrimage. The summit is very small; according to the measurement made by Lient. Malcolm (the first European who ascended the peak), its area is seventy-four feet by twenty-four. It is surrounded by a stone wall five feet high, built in some places on the brink of the precipice. The apex of the mountain is a rock, which stands in the middle of the inclosure, about six or eight feet above the level ground. On its top is the object of worship of the natives, the Sreepada,—the sacred impression, as they imagine, of the foot of Boodhoo, which he stamped on his first visit to the island. It is a superficial hollow, five feet three inches and three-quarters long, and between two feet seven inches and two feet five inches wide. It is ornamented with a margin of brass, studded with a few gems, of little value: it is covered with a roof, which is fastened to the rock by four iron chains, and supported by four pillars; and it is surrounded by a low wall. The roof was lined with coloured cloths, and its margin being decked with flowers and streamers, it made a very gay appearance. The cavity certainly bears a coarse resemblance to the figure of the human foot: were it really an impression, it is not a very flattering one, or the encomiums which are lavished on the beauty of the feet of Boodhoo are very improperly bestowed. It is hardly worth inquiring how it was formed, and whether it is intirely or only partly artificial. From its appearance and other circumstances, I believe it to be partly natural and partly artificial. There are little raised partitions to represent the interstices between the toes; these are certainly artificial; for a minute portion, which I secretly detached, was a mixture of sand and lime, similar to common cement, and altogether different from the rock itself. Lower down, on the same rock, there is a little niche of masonry, dedicated to Samen, who is also worshipped on the Peak, being considered the guardian god of the mountain. Within the inclosure is a small house of one room, the residence of the officiating priest; and this and two small huts outside the parapet, is all the shelter that the mountain affords. There is nothing else on the summit deserving of notice, that I am aware of, excepting a grove of *Rhododendrons* (*rhododendron arboreum*), which, studded with large red flowers, made a very handsome appearance. It is situated on the east and north-east side of the mountain, immediately outside the parapet, and is considered sacred. This shrub, or rather tree, the natives say was planted by Samen, immediately after the departure of Boodhoo, and that it is peculiar to the peak, and found in no other part of the island. The latter assertion I have since ascertained to be quite erroneous; the tree is common on all the higher mountains of the interior, and it occasionally makes its appearance at elevations little exceeding two thousand feet above the level of the sea.

'We passed the night on the mountains; and it was the first night, since I had entered the tropics, that I had occasion to complain of cold. There was no moon; the sky was cloudy, stars of the first and second magnitude only, making their appearance: once or twice that we looked out, we saw what might be called 'darkness visible,' and the giant forms of the mountains, sublime in obscurity. The next morning, just before sun-rise, we were awoke by the shouts of a party of pilgrims, just arrived. Having no toilet to make, we were in the open air in an instant. It was indeed a glorious morning, and we had reason to thank the pilgrims for waking us. The rising sun painted the sky with gold and purple, and threw over the whole scene such a rich purple light, that I never before saw equalled.'

The party of pilgrims just arrived, consisted of several men and women, all native Singalese, neatly dressed in clean clothes, and they immediately proceeded to their devotions:—

A priest, in his yellow robes, stood on the rock, close to the impression of the foot, with his face to the people, who had ranged themselves in a row below; some on their knees, with their hands uplifted, and joined palm to palm, and other bending forward, with their hands in the same attitude of devotion. The priest, in a loud and clear voice, sentence by sentence, recited the articles of their religious faith and duties; and, in response, they repeated the same after him. When he had finished, they raised a loud shout; and he retiring, they went through the same ceremony by themselves, with one of the party for their leader.

'An interesting scene followed this, wives affectionately and respectfully saluted their husbands, and children their parents, and friends one another. An old grey-headed woman first made her salams to a really venerable old man; she was moved to tears, and almost kissed his feet; he affectionately raised her up. Several middle-aged men then salamed the patriarchal pair; these men were salamed in return by still younger men, who had first paid their respects to the old people; and, lastly, those nearly of the same standing slightly salamed each other, and exchanged betel-leaves. The intention of these salutations, I was informed, was of a moral kind,—to confirm the ties of kindred, to strengthen family love and friendship, and remove animosities.

'Each pilgrim makes some offering to the impression of the foot and to Samen. I observed several of them: one presented a few small pieces of copper coin, another some betel-leaves, another some areka nuts, another some rice, and another a piece of cloth. The offerings were placed on the impression, and almost immediately removed, by a servant who stood by for the purpose; they are the

perquisites of the chief priest of the Malwattè Wiharè. Before the pilgrims descend, they are blessed by the priest, and exhorted to return to their homes, and lead in future virtuous lives.'

At Gannithenè, Dr. Davy visited an elephant snare, which is merely a square space of small dimensions, surrounded by strong palisades, having a tree in the middle, and a narrow entrance. The manner in which elephants are taken is very simple:—

'The wild animals are first driven to Kandy, and then, if approved of, to this place. When an elephant enters the inclosure, he is fastened to the tree by means of a noose, and his feet are properly secured by strong ropes. From the inclosure he is led to an adjoining spot; a shed is built over him; his feet are tied firmly to trees, and he is not allowed to lie down. We found six elephants in progress of taming,—their limbs more or less shackled, according to the subjugation effected. They were all extremely lean, and miserable objects to look at. More than half of those caught die during their confinement; they seem to pine for the lost blessing of liberty; they refuse to eat, and generally die of starvation.'

The city of Kandy abounds in temples, which, with the palace, are the principal objects worthy of notice:—

'The palace did occupy a considerable portion of ground. Its front, about two hundred yards long, made rather an imposing appearance; it looked towards the different temples, and rose above a handsome moat, the walls of which were pierced with triangular cavities, for purposes of illumination. At one extremity it was terminated by an hexagonal building of two stories, called Pateripooa, in which the King, on great occasions, appeared to the people assembled in the square below. At the other extremity it was bounded by the women's apartments, on the front of which the sun, moon, and stars, (not of gallantry, but as insignia of royalty,) were carved in stone, and in which, at the public festivals, the King and his ladies stationed themselves to witness the processions. The intermediate space was occupied chiefly by the great entrance to the palace, and by the temple (the Dalada Malegaiva,) a little in the rear. The entrance was by a draw-bridge over the moat, through a massive archway, on one hand up a flight of huge steps, and through another archway to the hall of audience; and on the other hand, up another flight of steps, to the temple and the hexagonal building.'

At Memoora there is a nitre cave, which our author thus describes:—

'The first view of the place was exceedingly striking. A large cave appeared in a perpendicular face of rock, about three hundred feet high, crowned with forests, at the base of which was a stage or

platform of rubbish, that seemed in danger of sliding into a deep wooded valley, closed in by mountains of considerable elevation and remarkable boldness. The cave was two hundred feet deep, and at its mouth, which was nearly semicircular, about eighty feet high, and one hundred wide. Its floor was rocky and steep, rapidly ascending inward, and its extremity was narrow and dark. To facilitate the ascent, ladders were planted in the most difficult places. The workmen whom I found at their labours, sixteen in number, were the rudest set of artificers I ever witnessed; their bodies, almost naked, were soiled with dirt, and their bushy beards and hair were matted and powdered with brown dust. When I arrived, they were occupied, not in the cave, but on the platform before it, attending to the operations that were then going on in the open air,—of filtration, evaporation, and crystallization. The apparatus employed was curious for its simplicity and rudeness. A small stream of water was led from a distance to the place, by a pipe of bamboos; the filters were of matting, in the shape of square boxes, supported by sticks; and the evaporating vessels, and, indeed, all the vessels used, were the common chatties of the country, of which a great many were assembled, of various sizes. The cave may be considered partly natural and partly artificial. I was informed that, during the last fifty years, for six months in the dry season, it has been annually worked, and that each man employed was required to furnish a load of nitre, which is about sixty pounds, to the royal stores.

In an earlier part of this volume, Dr. Davy states, that this nitre cave is 'a very compounded rock, consisting of calspar, felspar, quartz, mica, and talc, in a humid state, exposed to the air, and slowly decomposing, strongly impregnated with saltpetre.' One hundred parts of this compound rock were found to consist of—

- 2.4 nitrate of potash.
- 0.7 nitrate of magnesia.
- 0.2 sulphate of magnesia.
- 9.4 water.
- 26.5 carbonate of lime.
- 60.7 earthy matter, insoluble in dilute nitric acid.

The remaining part of Dr. Davy's tour contains an account of all the principal objects in the country through which he travelled, but there is nothing particularly striking, and we shall only quote a singular instance of heroism which occurred at Passera, during the rebellion of 1818. Lance-corporal M'Laughlin, of the 72d, with four rank and file of that regiment, six Malays, and six Singalese, were on their march for Passera to Badulla:—

This small party was beset about mid-

way by a horde of rebels in a thick jungle, who fired on the detachment from their concealment, killing two soldiers of the light infantry on the spot, and immediately showing themselves in numbers around this little band of brave soldiers, whom they no doubt considered a certain prey; but, regardless of their menaces, and faithful to their fallen comrades, ten of these gallant men encompassed the dead bodies of their brother soldiers, while corporal M'Laughlin, with the remaining five, fought their way to Badulla, at two miles distance, through some hundred Kandyans, to report the situation of the detachment they left surrounded by so immense and disproportionate a force, in conflict with which they continued for two hours, when being relieved by a party detached by Major M'Donald, under the command of Lieutenant Burns, of the 83rd regiment, from Badulla, they had the triumph of seeing the insurgents fly before them, and of bringing in the dead bodies of their comrades to be honourably interred.

Some 'observations on the effects of the climate,' 'on the diseases of Ceylon,' and an Appendix of Proclamations and other State Papers, close this valuable volume. The engravings are numerous and well-executed.

The Beauties of Mozart, Handel, Pleyel, Haydn, Beethoven, and other celebrated Composers; adapted to the Words of Popular Psalms and Hymns, for One or Two Voices; with an Accompaniment and appropriate Symphonies for the Piano-forte, Organ, or Harp. By an Eminent Professor. Music 4to. 1821.

We have heard it whispered, that the editor of this volume of harmony is Dr. Busby; whether this be true or false, we cannot state; it might be him, or Latrobe, or any one else out of a hundred professors that could be named in the musical world. But whispers are nothing to us, because we look at the execution of the work, not to the name attached to it, nor the concealment of the eminent professor! with whom we entirely agree, that it is a pity 'the Devil should have all the best music.' Some have objected to the adaptation of 'right pleasant melody' to 'psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,' under an idea that, however the voice may be engaged, the mind will return to 'Pray Goody please to moderate,' or the lip still covet 'The rich ambrosia of thy Breath,' or 'Drink to me only with thine Eyes.' Be it remembered, there are thousands of lovely women and anti-corinthian youths, with sweet voices, who are toler-

ably skilled on the three divine instruments to which those beauties are adapted, who are not familiar with theatrical favourites, particularly where parental restrictions are rigidly enforced, and which are as dutifully obeyed. So, then, fine music and pathos are to be confined alone to those whom some of our contemporaries are pleased to call—'the licentious part of mankind.'

The later ages have been too long degraded by droning sing-song tunes. Congregations are in a great degree led by a humdrum organist or desk-professor, whose 'pious orgies,' of course, are rehearsed at home, for the elasticising of the spirits of a select tea party. It is a subject much to be lamented, that social meetings are not more cultivated in the more retired and serious walks of society; and it is worthy of prominent remark, that where they are so, the little differences of religious and political opinions, (for they are too often found to exist under the same influence,) are softened into unity, peace, and concord. We believe it to have been a reason with composers of eminence generally, that the poetry, which is not considered strictly evangelical and orthodox, has been more suitable, from possessing more taste, grace, and expression, than poems approved by staid divines, upon a par of mediocrity with the redoubted Sternhold and his successors. Time, that brings the eternal round of excellence and beauty to pass, we are persuaded, will lead the above collection of beautiful compositions into the hearts of the rising generations without the least prejudice to their morals or happiness, and we hope that nurses will lullaby them to Watts, Cowper, and Barbauld, while engaged in fostering their infant charge into mental habitude and virtue. With reminding the editor of the too frequent accompaniments to a first edition, a few printer's discords and engraver's naturals, we recommend the work to our readers.

THESSALIAN MARTYRS.

(From Pouqueville's Travels in Greece.)

EUTHYMUS Blachavas, renowned and quoted as the last of the brave Thessalians, was awakened at the noise of arms which the northern nations caused to be heard at Lovcha, in Thrace, in 1809. He had invited to a last effort all the generous sons of Thessaly, who were prepared to sacrifice themselves for liberty. Olympus, Ossa, and

Othryx, were shaken; the Mahometans, thrown into consternation, had entrenched themselves in Lerissa. A great event was preparing, when it came to be known that those had retreated whom the Greeks had regarded as their deliverers. The satrap of Epirus at this news let loose his hordes on the Thessalians, and the cutting off of heads and burning of villages brought back the people to obedience. Blachavas, deceived in his hopes, in vain wished to resist; he retreated like a terrible lion from mountain to mountain; and when he no longer found security on the continent, the Isle of Trikeri offered him an asylum, whence he could escape into the Archipelago. But he heard the cries of the Christians; he reproached himself for having compromised their existence; and in order to redeem a whole people, he accepted a capitulation, by which he placed himself with a promise of life in the hands of the eldest son of the satrap of Janina. 'I am going to die,' said he to his friends; 'I know the faith of the Turks; reserve your arms for happier days—fly.' With equal courage he appeared before his enemy, who would perhaps have respected the pledge given him, if he had not been the lieutenant of a man who employed oaths only as the means of deceit. At Janina, tied to a stake in the court of the Seraglio, I again saw Blachavas, whom I had met at Milias, in Pindus, at the head of his troops. The rays of a burning sun played on his bronzed brow, which defied death, and a profuse perspiration fell from his shaggy beard. He knew his fate; and more composed than the tyrant who was about to shed his blood, he raised towards me his eyes full of serenity, as if to make me a witness of the triumphs of his last hour. He saw the approach of that hour so terrible to the wicked with the composure of the just. He bore, without trembling or reproach, the strokes of the executioner, and his limbs, dragged through the streets of Janina, showed to the astonished Greeks the remains of the last of the captains of Thessaly. Alas, why should so glorious an end be stained with the crime of rebellion, which had dragged so many innocent persons to the tomb! The inexplicable designs of Providence are only explained by prodigies which confound the calculations of our feeble reason. The punishment and revolt of Blachavas prepared the triumph of a feeble mortal who had no other arms than prayers

and patience—one of the disciples of our Saviour destined to support the timid during the tempest, whose blood, confounded with that of the warrior, restored by his martyrdom the honour of the Christians.

Demetrius, of the order of St. Basilus, elevated by that evangelic charity which characterized the Apostles in their persecutions, traversed in these stormy days the neighbouring cantons, in order to calm their minds and lead them back to the yoke of obedience. Denounced as a seditious person, and taken with Blachavas, he appeared before the satrap of Janina loaded with irons. It was wished that he should name accomplices, in order to involve in the conspiracy the orthodox prelates, who occupied the ecclesiastical thrones of Thessaly; but strong in faith he testified the truth of the living God, and his answers inflamed the rage of the Vizir, which blazed out in a dialogue worthy of being recorded to Christendom as a monument belonging to the martyrology of the church.

Vizir.—You have announced 'the reign of Jesus Christ, and consequently the destruction of our altars and the fall of our prince.'

Demetrius.—God reigns from eternity to eternity. I revere those masters whom He has given us.

Vizir.—What do you carry on your breast?

Demetrius.—The venerable image of the Holy Mary.

Vizir.—I wish to see it.

Demetrius.—It must not be profaned. Order one of my hands to be released, and I will show it to you.

Vizir.—It is thus that you mislead the minds of men. We are profaners! I recognise in this speech the agent of the bishops whom the Russians are bringing to enslave us. Name your accomplices.

Demetrius.—My accomplices are my conscience and my duty, which oblige me to console my Christian brethren and to teach them submission to your laws.

Vizir.—To your own you mean, you Christian dog.

Demetrius.—I glory in that name.

Vizir.—You carry an image of the Virgin, with which, it is said, prejudices are connected.

Demetrius.—Prodigies, say! The mother of our Saviour is our intercessor with her immortal Son. She works miracles for us every day, and every day I invoke her.

Vizir.—Let us then see if she will

protect you.—Executioners, apply the torture.

At these words, pronounced with the energy of rage, the pages of the satrap concealed themselves while the executioners seized their victim, and threw him down at the feet of the tyrant, who spat in his face. The holy image was taken from him. Pointed reeds were driven into the nails of his fingers and toes. His arms were likewise pierced by them, and at the height of his agony nothing escaped his lips but these words, 'Lord have mercy on thy servant—Queen of Heaven pray for us.' The torture of the reeds being ended, there was applied round his head a chain of ossalets, which was forcibly tightened while the executioner called out to him to name his accomplices, but the chain broke without extorting from him a murmur. The executioners, tired out, begged that the torture might be suspended till the following day, and the patient was precipitated into a damp dungeon. The satrap did not again attend the torture, which recommenced according to his orders, by suspending the victim with his head down over a fire of pitchy wood, with which they slowly burnt the skin of his cranium. They were afraid that his life might escape, and withdrew him from the chafing-pan to cover him with a table, on which the executioners mounted, and danced for the purpose of breaking his bones. Victorious in the last trial, Demetrius, having now passed through the torture of the reeds, the fire, and of the estrapado, was built into a wall, leaving his head out of the masonry. He was there supplied with nutriment, in order to prolong his agony. He died on the tenth day, invoking the name of the Almighty. His supernatural courage astonished Epirus, and his name was quoted as a saint. It was said, that even miracles were performed by it; and what cannot be doubted is, that his blood appeased the rage of the satrap, and that he was the last expiatory victim of Thessaly.

Original Communications.

A FRENCH ADVERTISEMENT.
To the Editor of the Literary Chronicle.

SIR,—In the forty-sixth number of the *Affiches Universelles*, a daily French paper, and the forty-first article, under the title Paris, is the following advertisement of a book-keeper and

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teacher of the French language, which I extract without alteration, viz.—

‘*M. Meinier, teneur de livres, rue du Four St. Germain, No. 28, très connu, enseigne la partie double simplifiée en un mois de leçons. Il se charge de la vérification, de la rédaction de tous comptes et des arbitrages; et il peut en outre donner quatre heures par jour pour les livres d'une maison de commerce.*—BOOK-KEEPER and TEACHER of the French tongue, repair to dwelling-house.’

What am I, Sir, to understand by the last sentence, which is in English? Does it imply that I am to repair to his dwelling-house, or that he will repair to mine? This shows how ridiculous it is for persons to affect an understanding of another language, when they have but imperfectly learned their own. However, the twofold profession of keeper and *teacher*, I advise most strenuously to all young men who go raw from the country to London; and with what importance it would appear in our daily papers, under an advertisement like this: ‘A young man from Lancashire wishes for a situation at the ‘Bull and Mouth,’ the ‘Belle Savage,’ or ‘Red Lion,’ as book-keeper and teacher of the English tongue. Ladies boarding-schools regularly attended, — *repair to dwelling-house*. But what may be considered propriety in France, is obviously the reverse in England. I am, Sir, your’s, &c.

R.

Cour des Fontaines, 1st Oct. 1821.

THE PROBABILITIES OF HUMAN LIFE.

(FOR THE LITERARY CHRONICLE.)

THE proportion of children born, is eighteen males to seventeen females. According to the observation of M. Dupré de St. Maur, in 23,994 deaths, 6454 of them were those of children, not a year old; and, carrying his researches on this subject as far as possible, he concludes, that of 24,000 children born, the number who attain to different ages are as follow:—

Age.	Number.	Age.	Number.	Age.	Number.
2	17,540	30	9544	90	103
3	15,162	35	3770	91	71
4	14,177	40	7929	92	63
5	13,477	45	7008	93	47
6	12,968	50	6197	94	40
7	12,562	55	5875	95	33
8	12,255	60	4564	96	23
9	12,015	65	3450	97	18
10	11,861	70	2544	98	16
15	11,405	75	1507	99	8
20	10,909	80	807	100	6 or 7
25	10,259	85	291		

When a child is born, to what age may a person bet, on equal terms, that it will attain? Or, if the child has al-

ready attained to a certain age, how many years is it probable that it will still live? These are two questions, the solution of which is not only curious but important.

We shall here give two tables on this subject, one by M. Dupré de St. Maur, and the other by M. Parcieux. The table of M. Parcieux is formed from lists of annuitants:—

TIME TO LIVE.

Age.	M. de St. Maur.		M. Parcieux		Age.	M. de St. Maur.		M. Parcieux	
	Yrs.	Ms.	Yrs.	Ms.		Yrs.	Ms.	Yrs.	Ms.
0	8				50	16	7	19	5
1	33		41	9	60	11	1	14	11
2	38		42	8	70	6	2	9	2
3	40		43	6	75	4	6	6	10
4	41		44	2	80	3	7	5	
5	41	6	44	5	85	3		3	4
6	42		44	3	90	2		2	2
7	42	3	44		95		5	6	
8	41	6	43	9	96	4		5	
9	40	10	43	3	97	3		4	
10	40	2	42	8	98	2		3	
20	33	5	36	3	99	1		2	
30	28		30	6	100			1	
40	22	1	25	6					

It may be deduced from the preceding observations, that when the inhabitants of a country amount to one million, the number of those of the different ages will be as follows:—

Between 0 and 1 year complete	38,740
..... 1 5	119,460
..... 5 10	99,230
..... 10 15	94,530
..... 15 20	88,674
..... 20 25	82,380
..... 25 30	77,650
..... 30 35	71,665
..... 35 40	64,205
..... 40 45	57,230
..... 45 50	50,605
..... 50 55	43,940
..... 55 60	37,110
..... 60 65	28,690
..... 65 70	21,305
..... 70 75	13,195
..... 75 80	7065
..... 80 85	2880
..... 85 90	1025
..... 90 95	335
..... 95 100	82
Above 100 years	3 or 4

Total.... 1,000,000

The number of inhabitants of a country is to that of the families, as 1000 to 222½.

By taking a mean also, it is found that in twenty-five families, there is one where there are six or more children.

The proportion of males and females in a country, are as 18 to 19.

It is found, that there are three marriages annually among 337 inhabitants, so that 112 inhabitants produce one marriage.

The proportion of married men or

widowers to married women or widows, is nearly as 125 to 140; and the whole number of this class of society is, to the whole of the inhabitants, as 265 to 631.

Among 631 inhabitants, there are 118 married couples, seven or eight widowers, and 21 or 22 widows.

1870 married couples give, annually, 357 children.

The number of servants is to the whole number of inhabitants, as 136 to 1535 nearly.

OXFORD ANECDOTES.

JACOB BOBART—Was a German horticulturist, and came to England about the middle of the seventeenth century. He was appointed first superintendent of the physic garden in Oxford, founded in 1632, by Henry Earl of Danby. The catalogue of plants in the physic garden, published in 1648, was drawn up by J. Bobart, and is a favourable proof of his zeal and diligence. This catalogue was republished in 1648, considerably improved, and enlarged to more than double its bulk; Bobart being assisted in the work, as he acknowledges, by Dr. Philip Stevens and Wm. Brown, M. A. A plant, in honour of Bobart, is called Bobartia, a genus formed by Linnæus, and said to grow in the East Indies. Under the care of Bobart and that of his son, the garden continued to flourish many years. Old Jacob died in the garden house, February 4th, 1679, aged eighty, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Peter in the East, where there is a monument to his memory, against the wall of the church. On rejoicing days, he used to have his venerable beard tagged with silver. He left two sons, Jacob and Tilleman, who were both employed in the physic garden. Jacob, who was a man of learning, published the second volume of ‘Morison’s Oxford History of Plants,’ 1699. An anecdote is told of him, which implies somewhat of a humorous disposition. He found a large dead rat in the garden, and transformed it by art into the shape of a dragon, as represented in old and curious books of natural history, particularly in Aldrovandus. This was shown to various learned men, all of whom believed it to be a genuine and invaluable specimen of the dragon. Many fine copies of verses were written by the literati in honour of Bobart and his matchless discovery, and persons flocked from all parts to see it. Bobart owned the cheat some years after,

but it was for a long time preserved as a master-piece of art. There is an ingenious paper, by this writer, in the *Philosophical Transactions* for the year 1683, on the effects of the great frost, which happened the preceding winter, on trees and other plants. Many oak, elm, ash, walnut, and other trees were found, he says, with large rents or clefts in different parts of their trunks, in the large branches, and in such parts of their roots as were not sunk deep into the earth. Parts, he adds, that were so knotted, that they could not have been split but with great difficulty with beetles and wedges, were rent asunder by the force of the ice contained within them, making, at the time of bursting, a noise like the explosion of gunpowder. It is supposed that the trees which suffered were diseased, that some of the vessels were distended or burst, and that the effect was produced by the freezing of the sap or other juices contained in these cavities. J. Bobart gave the rent of a piece of land in Osney Meadow, commonly called Pike Acre, to be disposed of by the minister and churchwardens of the parish of St. Peter in the East, in Oxford, in the following manner:—Twenty shillings yearly to the minister of the parish, for a sermon to be preached by him on Christmas-day, in the afternoon, and the rest to such of the poor inhabitants as do not receive alms. He died December 28th, 1719, in the 79th year of his age, and was buried in the above-mentioned church, where there is an inscription to his memory. A descendant of the Bobarts, Mr. Tilleman Bobarts, formerly of University College, still resides in Oxford. He is one of the esquire or gold-stick bedels of the university, and appears to inherit a love of gardening and botanical pursuits from his ancestors.

Mother Louse.—In former times resided on Headington Hill, a celebrated old matron, mentioned by Anthony Wood in 1673, called Mother Louse. She was the mistress of a little ale-house, situated at the further end of a row of tenements, near the lane leading to Marston, and now, not unaptly, called Harpsichord Row, or Harpsichord Garden. Granger, in describing a print of this noted female, informs us, that she was probably the last woman who wore a ruff in England. She gave a name to her habitation which it retained for many years, and was called Louse Hall. Cabbage Hall, exactly opposite Chainey Lane,

the road to the intended Lunatic Asylum, was kept formerly by a tailor. A public-house higher up the hill, (now a private habitation,) was known by the name of Caterpillar Hall, which, says an ingenious writer, was no doubt a complimentary appellation, intimating to posterity, that, on account of its better commons, it had drawn away a great number of students from its inferior society; or, in other words, that the Caterpillar had eaten up the Cabbage.—*Oxford Herald.*

AEROSTATIC ASCENT OF MR. GREEN, AT BRIGHTON.

MR. GREEN, whose ascensions in a balloon, at the Coronation and on a subsequent day from Pentonville, we formerly noticed, made his fifth aerial excursion on the 2nd of October, from Brighton, and which had nearly proved fatal to him, as he was driven to sea, and was for some time at the mercy of the watery element. The following is his own account of this perilous adventure:—

I took my leave amidst the plaudits and anxious good wishes of the surrounding company, and ascended slowly, but majestically, towards the celestial regions. I rose about eight hundred feet, when the gas, which before had been expanded by the heat of the sun, became condensed by the change of temperature; the balloon consequently descended; this I could have easily prevented by discharging ballast, but I felt confident I was affording to the spectators a gratification unprecedented in the history of aerostatics; I therefore chose to take advantage of the circumstance. I eventually threw out two bags of ballast, and re-ascended, the balloon taking a direction south-east by south: it appeared to me as floating for a considerable time over the land's edge. The appearance of earthly objects gradually diminishing, I still ascended, so as to afford to the spectators a diminished view of my aerostatic machine. The balloon here took a more southerly direction, and finding myself going rapidly to sea, at an altitude of about two miles, I espied two vessels, the only assistance in sight at that elevation. I immediately opened the valve, and the balloon began to descend with great velocity, and, in the end, was plunged by the force of the wind into a tremendous heavy sea; it then drifted rapidly, assuming the appearance of an immense umbrella before me: the car striking the water on its side, its ornaments and coverings were presently destroyed, and it instantly filled with water. I had previously put on my life-preserver, but it unfortunately became entangled with the cords. I was here in a perilous situation, the life-preserver useless, and the car repeatedly turning over, so that I was

alternately under water. In this distress I continued for many minutes, when, almost exhausted, the propriety occurred to me of separating the cords which entangled the preserver, and which, after much difficulty, I accomplished with a knife. After this, I had the consolation of being raised considerably above the water, which enabled me to hail a boat humanely sent to my assistance by Capt. Clear, of the *Unity* packet, whose humane and active exertions I shall ever feel proud to acknowledge. I was at this time so much exhausted, that it would have been utterly impossible for me to have continued my hold five minutes longer. I remained in the water, according to the opinion of Captain Clear, about twenty minutes; but it appeared to me much longer. The balloon dragged me about two miles through a heavy surf. After having been, with great difficulty, got on board, my distress was so great as to render it absolutely necessary to strip me. I continued for some hours insensible, and must refer the public to Captain Clear for particulars during that period. After my recovery, I anxiously inquired of the captain if my property was safe on board; when he informed me that the balloon was literally torn to ribbands, and that my philosophical instruments and my apparatus, were all lost or destroyed. Upon examination, I found the balloon impossible to be repaired. I landed in safety on Wednesday morning, at one o'clock, at Newhaven, and reached the gas establishment, at Brighton, at ten o'clock.

Captain Clear states that he was on his passage from Dieppe to Brighton, when, about forty minutes after two p. m. he discovered a balloon descending very rapidly; that, in five minutes afterwards, it dropped into the water at about two miles to windward, when he lowered his boat, the sea running high, and the balloon dragging the car through a heavy surf; that he feared the man in the latter must perish before the boat could reach him, but that he had the satisfaction of seeing him pulled into the boat at about three o'clock. That he then so managed his vessel that the balloon came alongside, but he could not hold it; it therefore left the vessel, the boat still fast to it, and Mr. Green in the boat. That, as there was no other means of subduing the balloon, he ran his vessel's bowsprit through it, at the risk of losing it, if not the mast, it being twenty feet from the top of the balloon to the surface of the water. That, soon after, Mr. Green was got upon deck, when he made him swallow some brandy, then stripped and wrapped him in blankets, and had him put to bed. That he then proceeded to save the

balloon, which remained on the bowsprit until the gas had escaped; it then dropped into the sea, and sunk under the vessel's bottom. That by the aid of tackle it was hoisted on board, in the progress of which, from the effect of wind and tide, the silk gave way and tore in all directions; it could only be preserved in a mangled and tattered state.

MACPHERSON'S LAMENT.

A NOTED highwayman, of the name of Macpherson, was executed at Banff, in the year 1701, eight days after his trial, and his execution took place at a much earlier hour than was appointed by his sentence; the magistrates of Banff being apprehensive of a rescue. It was even reported, that either by fraud or violence, an express, with his pardon, was detained between Turreff and Banff. An unhappy girl, whose love for him, and grief for his fate, ended in distraction, came to Glenorchy and Upper Lorne in the following summer. She could give no distinct account of herself; but the incoherent hints drawn from her led to a conclusion that her parents were reputable; but that, infatuated by a passion for Macpherson, she had passed some time with him among his gipsy associates, had been admitted to him in prison, and learnt the Lament, which he hoped would engage the populace to assist his friends in delivering him from the civil power, when disencumbered from his fetters, preparatory to execution; but, as she said, 'they wadna trust the music o' his voice, but choaked him before his time.' She had left her ain fook to gang to Badenoch, the laund o' her dear and her dool, and she insisted Glenorchy was Badenoch, because the people spoke Gaelic, and there were 'bonny lads and red cheeked lasses.' Some one asked if she was a gipsy? She seemed quite indignant, and replied 'na, na, she was born in haly marriage, and bapteezed in haly kirk.'

The fragments of the Lament were literally stolen from this mourner. A gentleman attempted to write from her singing: but she wept bitterly at the idea of 'giving away,' as she termed it, 'the last remains of her dear.' The gentleman engaged some friends to prevail with 'Jamie's lassie,' the only name she gave herself, to sing his Lament; and he kept behind her employing his pencil to trace the lines.

I've spent my life in rioting,
Debauch'd my health and strength,

I squander'd fast, as pillage came,
And fell to shame at length.

To hang upon a tree, a tree,
Accurs'd disgraceful death,
Like a vile dog hung up to be,
And stifled in the breath.

My father was a gentleman,
Of fame and honour high,
Oh mother, would you ne'er had borne
The son so doom'd to die!

The laird of Grant, with pow'r aboon,
The royal majesty,
Pass'd his great word for Peter Brown,
And let Macpherson die.

But Braco Duff, with rage enough,
First laid a snare for me,
And if that death did not prevent,
Aveng'd I well could be.

But vengeance I did never wreak,
When power was in my hand,
And you, dear friends, no vengeance seek,
It is my last command.

Forgive the man whose rage betray'd
Macpherson's worthless life:
When I am gone, be it not said,
My legacy was strife.

And ye that blame with cruel scorn
The wand'ring gipsy's ways,
Oh, think if homeless houseless born,
Ye could spend better days!

If all the wealth on land or sea
Before my eyes were spread,
I'd give them all this hour to be
On the soldier's dying bed.

Though cut and hack'd in every limb,
And chok'd with heaps of slain,
Glory and fame should be my theme,
To soften every pain.

My father was a gentleman,
Of fame and lineage high;
Oh, place me in the field like him—
Like him to fight and die!

Original Poetry.

EPICRAMS.

I.

On a Whip being given by His Majesty to be run for, in Ireland.

THAT sycophants might have their rights,
Great George, returning from his trip,
Bequeathed Hibernian parasites
A fitting legacy—a whip!

LARRY O'LASHER.

II.

To Mr. Bliss, the Treasurer of a Bible Association.

SOME say the Bible points the road to bliss;
Here, sir, you own that truth is not a libel;
Reverse the question, and 'tis simply this,—
That Bliss is a conductor to the Bible.

ELLEN MARIA.

THE ZEPHYR.

SAY, zephyr, whither dost thou hie;
Why with such haste skim thro' the air?
Say, dost thou bear some lover's sigh
To some admired lady fair?

Or flyest thou to sip the dew
That sparkles on the lily white,
Or on the pretty violet blue?
Oh! little vagrant, stay thy flight.

Wilt thou on thy soft pinions bear
A message? wilt thou, zephyr, fly
And whisper in my Marianne's ear,
The echo of her Henry's sigh?

Say, wilt thou?—'Yes; but do not speak,
For as I'm used so swift to fly,
My form is so divinely weak,
It will not bear more than a sigh.

'That will I take—tho' I should now,
(Had you not thus detained me here,)
Been smoothing the soft raven brow
Of some divinely beauteous fair.'

Take then this sigh, and haste away,
Fly quickly, cherub! to my dear,
And as thou hast not aught to say,
Oh! cast it plaintive on her ear.

Then watch her sweet! and you shall hear
A sigh from her responsive flow,
And, little flutterer, strive to bear
To me my Marianne's note of woe.

But stay, can'st thou not bear a tear?
Oh, stay! return—thou can'st not then—
Then hasten, hasten to my fair,
And swift return to me again. J. C. P.

TO THE EVENING STAR.

PALR orb, whose unobtrusive light
Smiles sadly on a world below,
Thee, while I view, this stormy night,
Looks, like my fate, replete with woe:
And thou, whose silv'ry lustre streams
Alternate thro' a maze of gloom,
Art as some lamp, whose friendly beams
Guide the lost wand'rer to his home.

Yes, while I pensive mark thy rays,
And anguish loads my weary breast,
I muse on future happier days
Of endless undivided rest;
Led by thy light, to tranquil spheres I roam,
And taste the transports of ETERNAL HOME!
EDWARD BALL.

LINES

To the Memory of Körner, the German Poet and Warrior.

FAREWELL to thee! thou spirit brave,
Whom youth nor valour e'en could save;
Cold is thy form, and dim that eye,
Which in the fight flash'd gallantly;
Oh! though that ardent soul of thine
Enraptur'd woo'd the muse divine,
Thy country call'd for help and aid
When Gallia did her fields invade;
And who but would have join'd a band
To seek and save his native land?
Oh! thou did'st rise thee at the cry
Of those who fought for liberty;
Thy spirit rush'd like mountain flood,
Boldly it swept o'er fields of blood,
Where yet thine eye could weep to see
The wreck of frail mortality,
And sigh to think how soon the tomb
Might be thine own relentless doom,
Yet pray that heaven would bless the cause
Of those who fought for home and laws.
Alas! the cold earth form'd a bed,
Ere long, whereon to rest thy head;
And still and silent is the lyre
Thou touch'd'st with poetic fire.
Yet, honour'd long shall be thy name,
Enroll'd in the bright lists of fame;
Thy sweetest strains oft times among
Thy gallant countrymen be sung,
And long thy deeds a lustre shed,
Tho' Körner's number'd with the dead.

ELIZA.

ELEGIAC STANZAS,
Occasioned by the Death of A. E., in the
West Indies.

WHEN late I twined a wreath for thee,
And hoped, in other years,
To view it blooming beautifully,
Dewed but with Pleasure's tears,
I deem'd not of thy early doom,
Nor thought my humble wreath might bloom,
Only above thy lonely tomb!

And so while I was framing themes
Of future happiness,—
Dwelling on unsubstantial dreams
Of joys that yet might, bless,
Thou wert no longer dwelling here,
And Friendship's sigh, and Sorrow's tear,
Could veil thee nought howe'er sincere.

'Twas thine in distant land to die—
'Twas thine to pass from earth
Where none of those dear friends were nigh,
Who watch'd thee from thy birth;
No brother firm—no sister fair—
No mother, and no sire were there
To listen to thy parting prayer.

And I who would have felt with thee,
Nay, yielded life for thine,
Could in thy pangs no sharer be,
Could make no sorrow mine;
And worthless pleasures, common cares
Awoke my smiles or claim'd my tears,
While thy soul flew to other spheres!

A wanderer—but not esteem'd
The less because afar,
Nor wept less sadly when redeem'd
From every earthly jar;—
How deeply have we thought upon
Each kindly deed we might have done
For thee—belov'd, departed one!

Yet much was sought, and much begun,
Thy health to re-instate,
And all that friendship left undone,
Was but the fault of fate!

'Twere now a bootless tale to tell
Of love that never changed or fell
From plighted faith;—dear Shade, farewell!

Aug. 1821. J. W. DALBY.

The Drama.

DRURY LANE.—The office of critic on the performances at this theatre, has been for some time a sinecure, for our readers would not thank us for dwelling at any length on the ferocity of the *Ruffian Boy*, the splendour of the *Coronation*, or the dreadful annoyance which Tom King and his Monsieur Tonson give to poor Morbleu. We have, therefore, only to say, by way of dramatic record, that *Geraldi Duval*, the *Coronation*, and *Monsieur Tonson*, are the only pieces now performed at this theatre, and that they still maintain their attraction, to an extent that could never have been anticipated. When any novelty is produced, we shall be the first to make it known to our readers; at present we must content ourselves with a playbill announcement: 'The three unprecedentedly popular pieces every evening until further notice.'

COVENT GARDEN.—The loss of rational gratification which the public sustained during the absence of Mr. Young from the London boards, becomes very apparent when we see him resume those characters which he left vacant on the stage. Among those must be classed, as one of the first, the *Stranger*, which he sustained on Friday night, in a manner which called to our delighted memory the best days and the best exertions of John Kemble; not that Mr. Young is an imitator of that great actor, for his energies and talents are all his own; and they are only like each other in the forcible delineation of character, and in the power they possess of awakening the tenderest chords of the human heart. They rouse their audience to indignation or melt them into pity, insensibly, and, as it were, by some magic spell. Mr. Young's performance of the *Stranger*, has always been considered as one of his most finished characters; and we think his delineation of it on Friday, superior to any of his former exertions. His whole soul seemed embodied in the character; and he depicted, in the most correct and forcible style, the misanthropy and humanity, the stern severity, and the pure feeling of the abandoned husband. To adopt the language of a diurnal critic,—'How admirably he combated the occasional reflux of kindly feelings, which, in the earlier scenes of the drama, made their way towards his heart. He looked a man whom the sorrows of others could never again touch, who, wishing to forget the world, lived already in a waste of his own creation, more cold and desolate than the wildest deserts of nature. His heart seemed shrunk within him—once deceived, he would never again trust to it for happiness; yet, when the story of Tobias met his ear, feeling began to awaken, and the hurried manner in which he deposited the charity in the old man's hand, showed that he was still a man—though almost disdaining the character. The quietude of his forlorn and hopeless fortunes, were preserved with a dignified consistency, until the interview takes place between him and Steinfort. He told the story of his love with a tenderness that drew tears from several of the spectators; but when he came to speak of the villain who took Adelaide from him, he elicited such a burst of feeling as, in our theatres, is seldom observable. Again; when he sees that object so dear to him, tainted as she was with crime, exciting at once the love of the

husband and the insulted pride of the man, he balanced his feelings with such matchless skill, yielding to his affection, and recoiling from it, by turns, that it was impossible not to sympathize in the alternate emotions that unsettled all his former resolves. It was a relief when the children came at last to re-unite those links of conjugal attachment which perfidy had broken. It was altogether such a piece of acting, as left behind it an impression never to be forgotten.'

The part of Mrs. Haller was sustained by Mrs. Brudenell, the lady, who a few weeks ago, made her *debut* at the Haymarket Theatre, in the character of Belvidera. We have already stated the physical defects this lady labours under, in a feeble voice, and as that was felt at the Haymarket Theatre, it could not but be more striking in a house of three-fold dimensions. The character of Mrs. Haller, dignified as it has been by a Siddons and an O'Neil, is not one of great difficulty; a deep and silent sorrow, unruffled by any conflicting passions, pervades every scene in which she appears. Mrs. Brudenell acted with great feeling, delicacy, and tenderness; her conception of the character was correct, and her delineation of it rather chaste than forcible. The success of the performance was, however, unequivocal and decisive, and the lady in many scenes was honoured with much applause. Mrs. Faucit played the Countess of Wintersen with becoming dignity; Farley's Francis, and Emery's Solomon, justified the character they have long had, of being excellent performances. There yet remains one character to notice, but which is considered so insignificant in the piece, as usually to be passed over slightly. We mean that of Peter, so long held by poor Simmons. Its new representative was Mr. Meadows, who, stripping the part of all the buffoonery with which it has generally been loaded, really rendered 'Master Peter' a very important personage in the drama, and ensured him such an abundance of applause as he was, perhaps, never honoured with before.

On Wednesday, the opera of the *Antiquary* was performed for the first time this season. The part of Isabella Wardour, in the absence of Miss Stephens, fell into the hands of Miss Hallande, who gave the songs with very pleasing effect. Mrs. Faucit, as Elspeth, gave a faithful portrait of this worn-out grandam. Liston's

Oldbuck and Blanchard's Caxon lose none of their interest, and the Antiquary was received with as much applause as ever.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—The opera of *Rob Roy*, which has long been popular, was performed for the first time at this theatre on Wednesday night. It has been got up in a very liberal manner, and with great attention to scenic display. In the cast of the characters, the talents of the company were exhibited to the best advantage, though there are many plays to which those talents are better suited than *Rob Roy*. Mr. Terry, as the hero of the piece, gave a forcible representation of this distinguished freebooter, though somewhat deficient in that romantic spirit and enthusiasm which belongs to the character. He, however, displayed much energy and feeling in the most important scenes. Mr. Leoni Lee, as Francis Osbaldistone, executed the songs with much sweetness and effect, particularly 'Auld lang syne' and 'My love is like the red red rose,' which were rapturously encored. Miss Carew dissolved every word of Diana Vernon into sweet melody. She was in excellent voice, and played the character in a very pleasing manner. Mrs. Johnson acted Helen Macgregor: there was nothing of the heroine of the mountain and the glen about her; and we should rather have taken her to have been the wife of a Duke of Argyll or any nobleman 'who in courts had ever been,' than the partner of the outlaw Macgregor, treading upon her native heath. Tayleure, in the Baillie Nicol Jarvie, was very successful; his performance was rich in humour, and possessed much originality; in some scenes, however, he strongly reminded us of Mr. Mackay, whose delineation of the character has been justly the subject of much praise both in London, and more particularly beyond the Tweed. Owen had a good representative in Williams, and the 'Dougall creature' an indifferent one in Russel. De Camp was a blustering Major Galbraith, and Lacy a dandified Captain Thornton. With these drawbacks, the performance still possessed sufficient merit to ensure it great applause and repetition on the following evening.

Literature and Science.

Oriental Literature.—Oriental literature and education have just suffered a severe and unexpected loss in the person of M. Ellions Boether, born in

Egypt, professor of the vulgar Arabic at the school of Oriental Living Languages, and in the flower of his age. We lose in him a most valuable means of communication between Egypt and France. The relation in which he stood between the two countries, would have been very speedily much more efficacious, by the erection of a college of Egyptians at Paris. M. Ellions would have been the friend of this establishment. But though he has not been left to fulfil this great service to his paternal country, and to that of his adoption, yet he has left us an honourable memorial; and the great dictionary which he composed,—a work of fifteen years' perseverance and profound study, will preserve his name from oblivion or the indifference of mankind. In causing the manuscript of this work to be printed, the government in some measure mitigates the unfortunate loss.—*Moniteur*.

Application of the Congreve Rocket in the Whale Fisheries.—The ship *Fame* has returned to Hull, and Captain Scoresby has confirmed all that was stated respecting the important advantages to be derived from the use of the rocket in the whale fishery.

The *Fame* has brought home nine fish, in the capture of the whole of which the rocket has been successfully employed. After being struck with the rocket, the largest whale became an easy prey to its pursuers. In one case, instant death was produced by a single rocket, and in all cases the speed was much diminished, and its power of sinking limited to three or four fathoms.

One of the largest finners, of one hundred feet in length, a species of fish seldom attacked by the ordinary means, and of the capture of which there is scarcely an instance on record, in the northern seas, was immediately tamed by a discharge of rockets, so that the boats overtook and surrounded it with ease.

Six out of the nine fish died in less than fifteen minutes; and five out of the number took out no line at all. One only survived nearly two hours, and another took out no more than one line, by getting into a pack of ice, where the boats could not follow.

The peculiar value and importance of the rocket in the fisheries is, that by means of it, all the destructive effects of a six or even a twelve pounder piece of artillery, both as to penetration, explosion, force, and internal fire, calculated to accelerate the death of the

animal, may be given with an apparatus not heavier than a musket, and without any shock or re-action on the boat; whereas, it is obvious that no boat applicable to the fishery of the whale, can ever be made capable of sustaining the shock necessary to produce the same, or any thing like the effects of the six or twelve-pound shell, by the ordinary means of artillery.

In fact, nothing larger than the harpoon-gun could be applied; and the missile which could be discharged from such an implement, could neither have penetration nor explosive force sufficient to do any serious injury to the fish.

With respect to the rocket, however, it is a fact, that some of the smallest, fired in the late experiment in the *Fame*, penetrated completely through the body of the fish, so that the effect of the explosion was visible on the opposite side—the fierce fire of the rocket fixed in the animal's inside rapidly destroying life; and the effects and report of the explosion being distinctly perceivable within him, as in one instance, as above stated, producing immediate death. Indeed, it is certain that this might, in almost every case, be ensured by increasing the power of the rocket, without increasing the inconvenience or incumbrance of the apparatus required to discharge it, and equally without re-action on the boat, as when the smallest rockets are used. In addition to this, it may be stated, that there is no doubt of the rocket ultimately dispensing with the operation of the hand-harpoon, by conveying the line and destroying the animal at the same time, and that without requiring the approach of the boat to the fish within the limits of perfect security. It is also equally certain, that the large finners, never or rarely attempted in the north, will be rendered an easy prey by the judicious application of the rocket.

Egyptian Mummy.—Mr. Coates, a native of Newcastle, has presented the Literary and Philosophical society of that town, with an Egyptian mummy in the very highest state of preservation. Mr. C. procured this relic of antiquity as he recently passed through Egypt on his return from India.

The celebrated Carnot, who is living in a retired manner at Magdeburg, is said to be engaged in writing a work which must necessarily excite great interest. It is to be entitled, 'Historical Memoirs of the French Revolution, and the Events of the last thirty Years.'

Astronomic Phenomenon.—According to observations made by M. Luther, at Hanover, a remarkable phenomenon will take place in the course of the next autumn and winter. This will consist in the conjunction of the two great planets, Jupiter and Saturn, which will appear on the 16th and 18th of October, at midnight, in the meridian, and will be visible during the whole of the night.

Curious Spring of Water.—There is, at present, at a place called Caw, in the county of Londonderry, a sycamore tree, which contains a well of excellent fresh spring water. At the height of five feet, the trunk is about eighteen inches in diameter; at seven feet, it seems to have separated into two branches of equal thickness, one of which has shot up to a very considerable height, twenty or twenty-five feet, perhaps; from that part of the trunk from which a corresponding branch is supposed once to have grown, issues a stream of excellent water, perfectly cool and clear, which never fails, even in the hottest weather or longest drought; the tree seems perfectly healthy, and in luxuriant leaf.—*Irish Paper.*

The celebrated Zodiac of Dendera or Tentyra, which, when first discovered by the French, during their expedition in Egypt, occasioned much discussion respecting the antiquity of the earth, has been lately brought to Marseilles, and is to be conveyed to Paris. The *Courier Français* states, that the English Consul in Egypt opposed its removal, on the ground that it was within the district in which he had purchased the right of digging for curiosities, and wished to claim it for his government. The dispute was referred to the Pacha, who determined in favour of the French explorers, M. Saulnier and another. An account of their journey is to be printed.

The Bee.

*'Floriferis ut apes in saltibus omnia limant,
Omnia nos itidem depascimur aurea dicta.'*

LUCRETIVS.

Pun.—An auctioneer having waited a long time for a servant, who neglected to fetch away a table which he had sold to a gentleman, remarked, that 'he was the most *un-com-for-table* fellow he had ever known.'

Humanity.—At Lord Camden's seat, the Hermitage, near Seven Oaks, in Kent, the following important information was exhibited a few weeks since:—'This is to give notice, that

Lord Camden does not mean to shoot himself or any of his tenants till the 14th of September.'

Among other public records of the *divine right* of kings, the following is taken *verbatim* from the London Gazette of April 16, 1668, in the reign of Charles the Second of *pious* memory:—'Advertisement.—We are ordered to give notice, that by reason of the approaching heat of summer, his *majesty* intends to continue *touching for the evil*, till Friday after the 1st of May inclusively, and no longer.'

Bull.—The late Marquis of Londonderry, in his will, made twelve months before he died, has the following genuine bull:—Speaking of his son, Lord Castlereagh, he says, he feels confident that 'no exertion or affectionate endeavour will be omitted by him that can any way contribute, in addition to her jointure, to the accommodation and comfort of *my disconsolate and unhappy widow*.'

The editor of a provincial journal has the following paragraph in his paper of Saturday last:—'Stafford Assizes terminated last week; the trials were not of an important nature; twenty prisoners were capitally convicted.'

A distinguished gentleman of Pennsylvania, whose nose and chin are both very long, and who has lost his teeth, whereby the nose and chin are brought pretty near together, was told, 'I am afraid your nose and chin will have a fight before long; they approach each other very menacingly.'—'I am afraid of it myself,' replied the gentleman, 'for a good many words have passed between them already.'

Spanish Bull.—A Madrid paper says, that the *stones* which have been raised throughout Andalusia, in commemoration of the constitution of the Cortes, are all made of *wood*.

Sir William Curtis.—It could be little suspected that the present royal favourite, Sir Wm. Curtis, had originally been the political *eleve* of John Horne Tooke,—such, however, it appears, was the case: 'Sir William's father had been a zealous friend of popular politics in the city and county, and, at the period of the great contest for Middlesex, when Wilkes was opposed by Lutterel, old Mr. Curtis regretted that his business and his time of life prevented him from being so active in behalf of his favourite candidate as he wished to be: "My son, however," says he, "is just now of age; he is young and strong; take him, Mr. Horne, under your own direction, and

make him useful in your canvass!" 'The young man,' continued Horne Tooke, 'retained his acquaintance with me for some years afterwards; but subsequently, as would be readily supposed, we seldom met. It happened, however, after a very long interval, while I was a member of the House of Commons, that we did meet at the door of the House, going out together into the lobby, and, what was more extraordinary, going out on a division, upon the same side. Being side by side,' said Tooke, 'I offered him my hand, as an old political pupil, and told him, that I was heartily glad to find that he had returned to his master and to his original principles at last.—"Return!" replied Sir William, archly, "I never left my principles; it is you, Mr. Tooke, who have changed."—"How am I to understand you, Sir William?"—"Why, Mr. Tooke, when I engaged in politics with you, we *had the majority with us*; by the majority I have always stuck; and I will keep among the majority to the last."

Advertisement.

Cosmorama.—Second Exhibition.

A VIEW of the FUNERAL of BONAPARTE; Ditto of the Island of St. Helena, from the Ocean; the Exterior of the Pantheon at Rome, by Moonlight; interior View of the same; exterior View of St. Peter; interior View of Ditto; the Gallery of Raphael in the Vatican; the Valley of Glindelwald and the Glaciers, in Switzerland.

Open from Eleven in the Forenoon, to Nine at Night,—29, St. James's Street.—Admittance, One Shilling.

TO READERS & CORRESPONDENTS.

J. R. P. and Sam Spritsail, in our next.

O. F., Mac, and J. C. P. in an early number.

Mr. P. Wildernesse and Mr. Newman are requested to send to our publisher for letters, any time after Tuesday next.

Nosred has been received.

Acrostics and Rebuses have had their day in periodicals, and we feel no wish to revive them.

We are at a loss to understand whether H. A. is serious or not, when he talks of *condescension*. Such of his contributions as we deemed deserving of a place in the *Literary Chronicle*, have been inserted as soon as we could conveniently make room for them, but we cannot devote the poetical department exclusively to one correspondent.

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